

FACULTY OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Thursday Noon Series

12:10 pm • WALTER HALL
EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1988

A PROGRAM OF PREMIERES:
FIVE NEW WORKS BY LOTHAR KLEIN

Buskers for Contrabass and Contrabassoon

A Brisk Walk Before ...

Bert and Minnie ...

Dance

Jessica Monk, contrabass;

Sterling MacNay, contrabassoon

Psalm for Trumpet and Bongo

Norm Engel, trumpet;

Gabe Taryan, bongo

Landscape with Piper for English Horn and Piano

Julia Snelson, English horn;

Lothar Klein, piano

Virtuoso Music for Clarinet and Timpani

Ostinato Variations

Arioso

Bounce

Perpetual Motion

Peter Stoll, clarinet; Blair Mackay, timpani

Eclogue for Horns and Chimes

Suzanne Gagne, Kathy Robertson, horn;

Steve Wassmandorf, chimes

Please turn over for notes on today's program.

• A D M I S S I O N F R E E •

A PROGRAM OF PREMIERES
LOTHAR KLEIN

While our century has not suffered from a shortage of musical "characters," the musical character piece -- that terse and whimsical statement -- has not been overly favoured by composers today.

The present assembly of pieces offered this afternoon venture towards the character piece, but their subject is not an array of psychological Kreisleriana types, but rather the character of individual instruments themselves, timbrally, technically and acoustically. No literature exists for these off-beat duet pairings. While there is much literature for the expressive, "serious instruments" ... (usually the violin or piano), these duets press into service orchestral instruments usually thought too humble to play a starring musical role. The truth is, of course, that today all instruments are created musically equal, with their own set of inalienable rights.

My duet collection, then, always for a wind instrument with percussion accompaniment, presently numbers a good baker's dozen. They are in-between pieces written over the past two years as a respite, a change of pace from the full-length labours of working on my opera Messiah. They are, then, musical smaller change, stylistic meanderings, escape tones. A word about each.

Buskers -- itinerant London street musicians. Let us call them Bert and Minnie. They 1) take a brisk walk, 2) introduce themselves and 3) dance.

Psalm -- the solo trumpet does not "fit" the battle of "Jericho." The shape of the piece follows psalmodic changes of expression.

Landscape with Piper -- the musical imagery is obvious and was suggested by a Chinese wall hanging with the inscription "plaintive scales drift over the dusky hills."

Virtuoso Music -- my second try at this duet combination in pursuit of an idealized third stream music. Technically it is a knuckle breaker.

Eclogue -- Music for a lazy summer day, not imitative of the Virgillian form, but suggestive of Keats'

In the next valley glades:
Was it a vision, or a waking dream?
Fled is that music: do I wake or sleep?

Many thanks to all my performers and their teachers -- Messrs Berman, Hartenburger, Galper, McGill, Monohan, Rittich, Woomert.